

Press Clippings.—Some news items from the lay press, on matters related to medical practice, follow:

Two Hundred Millions Asked in War on Scourge
Tuberculosis Association Tells of Federal Funds Plan; Endorsed by United States Surgeon

Two hundred million dollars of federal funds for a final victorious drive against tuberculosis. . . .

That was the program advanced at the opening of the sessions of the National Tuberculosis Association's thirty-fourth annual meeting at the Biltmore Hotel yesterday.

The program, the approximate one thousand delegates were told, has been given the endorsement of Dr. Thomas Parran, Jr., United States Public Health Service Surgeon-General, and has won widespread support from tuberculosis experts throughout the country.

"The battle against tuberculosis is half won; a determined, well-financed campaign at this crucial time would spell final and decisive victory," declared Dr. J. A. Myers of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Association President.

Details Explained

Details of the proposed \$200,000,000 eradication drive were presented by Homer Folks, Executive Secretary of the State Charities Aid Association of New York.

Starting in 1939, he said, 40,000 hospital beds would be at a cost of \$140,000,000, including land, buildings, and equipment.

"This number of beds," he explained, "is approximately the number needed to provide two for tubercular patients for each annual death from the disease.

"The cost of each bed is estimated at \$3,500; annual maintenance at \$750 per capita would be \$30,000,000."

The program additionally would call for x-raying of all persons having family contacts with tuberculosis, estimated at present to number 792,000, he said. This, at a cost of \$7 each, would aggregate \$5,544,000.—*Los Angeles Examiner*, June 21.

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New White Plague Weapon Discovered*

Dr. Florence Barbara Seibert, University of Pennsylvania's woman scientist, receiver of the coveted Trudeau medal here last night, revealed her discovery of a tuberculin molecule of great importance for eradication of human tuberculosis, in an interview at the National Tuberculosis Association Convention.

Through the coöperation of Dr. J. Arthur Myers, President of the Association, Doctor Seibert, who is naturally shy and averse to limelight, told about her discovery in simplest fashion.

Said Doctor Seibert:

"My work has resulted in the complete separation of a substance as a molecule of known weight, that is chiefly and specifically responsible for the tuberculin reaction, our most basic method of diagnosing tubercular infection in human beings and animals.

Isolation Problem

"Tuberculin is the material which in small amount is injected into the skin of a person. If there is a reaction, such as reddening and swelling of the skin, the test is positive. That is, it shows that the germs of tuberculosis are or have been present in the person's body.

"Naturally, the more sensitive and certain this test is, the greater aid it renders in earliest diagnosis.

"The problem upon which I have been working for the past sixteen years or so, in collaboration with Dr. Edmund R. Long of the Henry Phipps Institute, University of Pennsylvania, was to isolate the particular substance or substances which give the tuberculin reaction.

"This year, with collaboration of Arne Tiselius and Kai O. Pedersen, at Dr. The Sevedberg's famous laboratory at Upsala, Sweden, I found that there are three different molecules of interest in tuberculin.

"Of these the most specific in action was one known by its molecular weight of 16,000. That is, it is so many times heavier than a molecule of hydrogen, the unit of molecular weight system.

"Now, the most interesting characteristic of this particular substance is that it does not produce antigenic or skin reaction by itself even though it has protein in it.

"Only if there is some tubercular infection in the person's body, the 16,000 molecule stirs up the skin reaction. Thus, using this ingredient of tuberculin in pure form it is possible to be sure that a positive reaction is due only to tuberculosis, no matter how mild, and not to the tuberculin protein itself.

* By Gobind Behari Lal, International News Service Science Editor. (Copyright, 1938.)

"Tuberculin specimens thus analyzed, by use of ultracentrifuging, electrophoresis and diffusion methods, were both of live germs (untreated, unheated) and dead tubercular germs. The molecule of 16,000 weight type was found in the live germs tuberculin."

A number of other molecules, ranging from 9,000 to 32,000 molecular weights, were found, but were less specific than the all important 16,000 weight molecule.—*Los Angeles Examiner*, June 21.

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Men of Medicine*

The sixteen trustees and officers who manage the affairs of the American Medical Association sat silent for sixteen minutes and forty seconds in a San Francisco room last week. Cause: A preview of the March of Time's monthly cinema on the topic "Men of Medicine—1938," a picture of how a young man gets his medical education and interne training, how he sets up practice in a typical small United States community, how he accidentally gets and skilfully operates on his first appendix case, how he gives his service free to the poor who attend hospital clinics.

Efforts to provide good medical care for every citizen cause acrimonious rows among doctors. March of Time has the spokesmen of conflicting schools present their diverse solutions:

Surgeon General Thomas Parran saying: "The underprivileged third of our population, when seriously ill, needs help from tax funds. The health of the people is quite properly the concern of Government."

Yale's Professor of Medicine John Punnett Peters asking that the Federal Government subsidize medical schools, hospitals, research institutions, and pay the hospital and doctor bills of the poor.

Manhattan's Sociologist Kingsley Roberts explaining a movement for coöperative medicine under which individuals and families pay dues to an organization which hires doctors to look after them.

The spokesman for the majority of the American Medical Association's 110,000 doctor-members, Dr. Morris Fishbein, arguing that "Every one should have good medical service. But we insist that the practice of medicine is a doctor's problem. The doctor is the only one entitled by training, by experience, and by law to take care of the sick. Medicine is still a profession. It must never become a business or a trade, never the subservient tool of a governmental bureaucracy."

Delighted with this cinema report not only on the United States No. 1 medical controversy but on laboratory, office, sick-room and operating room procedures, the heads of the American Medical Association broke their sixteen minute and forty second silence, voted the American Medical Association's first official endorsement of a commercial moving picture: "The Board of Trustees of the American Medical Association expresses sincere appreciation of the March of Time's 'Men of Medicine—1938' as excellent educational material revealing advance of medical science and service of medical science to the sick."—*Time*, June 20.

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Care of Patients

Lutgens Outlines State's Needs

Problems of providing facilities for care of mental patients, and steps toward solution of the problems, yesterday were described by Harry Lutgens, State Director of Institutions, in a report to the American Psychiatric Association.

California, said Lutgens, has 315 mental patients per 100,000 population—higher than the national average of 269 per 100,000. Influx of families from the east is contributing to an increase of eight hundred patients per year.

Yet, California, the director added, has failed to keep up with the hospital needs of its insane charges.

A 40 per cent excess—number of patients over number of mental hospital beds—is being reduced through a \$12,000,000 building program using State and Federal funds. Even when this program is completed, said Lutgens, the mental institutions will be 17 per cent overpopulated.—*San Francisco Examiner*, June 10, 1938.

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Charity Racket Curb Plan Given Council

Designed to curb the activities of charity racketeers and save for worthy causes the many thousands of dollars which otherwise would fall into their hands, the draft of a proposed regulatory ordinance was presented to the city council.

* See also item in Letters Department, on page 96.

The proposed measure, prepared and adopted by the Social Service Commission, was sent to the council with the request that it be enacted.

Requiring that written permission must first be obtained before solicitations for charity funds may be begun, the proposed ordinance provides that individual solicitors must show identification cards and that promoters of charity drives must obtain a license as such, good for only a year at a time.

The method of soliciting contributions in the name of charity over the telephone, commonly used by professional campaigners, would be strictly forbidden.

Permits to solicit funds for charity's sake would be granted only by the Department of Social Service.

Applications for permits would be accompanied by a \$1 filing fee and full information about the organization and purpose of the solicitation. An estimated budget and financial statement of the organization would be required.

Copies of agreements between soliciting organizations and promoters would have to be submitted to the department before a permit was issued.

While individual solicitors would be required to have identification cards, this requirement might be waived where there were more than twenty-five solicitors working without pay. However, publicity about the solicitation must inform the public of the purpose of the drive.

Permits may be revoked or suspended if material misstatements have been made in the application—Los Angeles *Herald-Express*.

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County Charity Budget Is Set at \$32,794,416

The Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County has fixed the preliminary budget for the county Department of Charities, exclusive of institutions, at \$32,794,416 for the fiscal year 1938-1939, an increase of \$6,354,339 over the 1937-1938 budget of \$26,440,077.

The preliminary budget is to be considered at public hearings, after which it may again be revised by the supervisors.

Of the new budget, however, only \$12,735,228 will be raised by taxation as compared with \$13,081,945 this year. This is because of State contributions and refunds in aid to the aged, indigent children and blind. The Legislature at its recent special session appropriated \$6,000,000 in addition to regular contributions for the various counties, and of this amount Los Angeles County will receive \$2,013,283.

Other Requests

The supervisors have not yet taken up the requests of Rex Thomson, superintendent of charities, for the county institutions such as the General Hospital, Olive View Sanatorium and the county farm. These requests total \$9,050,000.

The county will also receive state and federal aid for the institutions but the amounts have not yet been broken down.

The allowances for the department as fixed today, exclusive of the institutions, and the allowances last year are as follows:

	1938-39	1937-38
Aged aid	\$20,532,000	\$15,850,000
Direct relief	4,883,000	4,531,604
Bureau of indigent relief.....	2,232,660	1,886,097
Child aid	2,177,950	1,605,688
Blind aid	1,695,242	1,406,620
Administration	1,273,564	1,160,068
Totals.....	\$32,794,416	\$26,440,077

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Hospital Plan Declared Legal

Opinion Given on Leasing Proposal for Olive View

A proposal of private parties to construct a 940-bed hospital on the grounds of Olive View Sanatorium and to accept rentals from the county financed by State tuberculosis subsidies, is legal, according to an opinion on file with the supervisors.

County Counsel O'Connor said the fact that the buildings would be leased and not owned by the county will not jeopardize State subsidies.

Rentals would be paid by the county at an average cost of \$8,227.50 per month for three hundred months, and would total \$2,468,250 over twenty-five years, if the plan is approved.

Superintendent of Charities Thomson estimates that the county would receive about \$130,000 additional in State subsidies if the new facilities are provided.

Reduction in gross cost per patient per day from \$3.67 in 1930-31 to \$2.75 last fiscal year, and an increase of 248 patients in three years for a total of 1,731, were shown in the annual report of Olive View Sanatorium just released.

LETTERS

Concerning film narrative, "Men of Medicine: 1938."*

To the Editor:—At the opening session of the American Medical Association convention in San Francisco on June 12, the delegates will attend a preview of "Men of Medicine: 1938," a twenty-minute March of Time film narrative on medical science's immeasurable contribution to American life. Immediately thereafter it will be released to 11,374 theaters throughout the world, and will be seen by an estimated United States audience of 24,000,000 people.

This is the first authentic motion picture for theatrical distribution produced with the unrestricted cooperation of the American Medical Association, the United States Public Health Service, and the medical departments of the United States Army and Navy. Already those doctors who have seen the picture in our projection room have been unanimous in their praise and approval not only of the picture's accuracy but of its potential value in bringing essential medical knowledge to the public.

No film before has told the story of the sixty-nine great medical schools of the United States, the ten years of training which each doctor must undergo at a cost of nearly \$15,000, the fact that United States doctors, in a time of depression, are today contributing \$1,000,000 daily in free clinical services for the poor and distressed.

Coming at a time when actually 40,000 or more American doctors earn less than \$2,000 annually, when new plans for cooperative medicine, group hospitalization, health and old-age insurance and government aid are discussed on every hand, this important record of the practice of medicine, ranging from the duties of the small-town country doctor to great laboratories of internationally known institutions, constitutes not only an important document of medical progress but an informative and educational record which every layman should see.

I truly hope that unless you are present at the San Francisco preview, you yourself will see it in your local theater and will feel as we do that it is a document of such value that every effort should be made to assure the widest possible public audience. We would be happy indeed to cooperate in any plans which you could suggest in your own field of activity, and hope that we shall hear from you in this important matter.

Sincerely yours,

LOUIS DE ROCHEMONT,
Producer and Publisher.

Concerning educational leaflet on syphilis.

(COPY)

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
WASHINGTON

To the Editor:—Foremost among the problems which face the physician in his treatment of syphilis is that of keeping the patient in treatment. When skin lesions disappear and the patient "feels fine" he is apt to disregard the doctor's advice and lapse.

The first line of defense against such lapses is education. When the patient thoroughly understands his disease—as the diabetic is taught the idiosyncrasies of his diet—he may be more often counted upon to continue through that long course of seventy injections recommended by the Coöperative Clinical Group.

The little folder which we enclose was prepared with the physician's problem in mind.

It is clear. We tried it on patients at a city clinic, on a workers' education group, on a grade-school age group, on college students. We revised it until it answered their questions in a way they would understand. Then we added the pictures to help drive home the story.

It is inexpensive. It may be secured from the Superintendent of Documents in Washington, D. C., for \$1 per 100 copies. In smaller quantities, five cents each. But give

* See also item in News department, under Press Clippings, on page 95; and item on page 3.